GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:291
ANSWERED ON:14.08.2007
IMPORT OF AGRI PRODUCTS
Bose Shri Subrata;Pandey Dr. Laxminarayan

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been substantial increase in the import of agricultural products like coconut oil, black pepper, edible oils, tea, coffee during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has any proposal to reduce the agricultural imports to strengthen the indigenous primary sector;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) & (b) Import of agricultural products like black pepper, tea, coffee etc during last three years has been fluctuating. The quantity and value of import of black pepper, edible oils (including coconut oil) tea and coffee during the last three years is given below

c) to (f): The Government monitors imports of sensitive agriculture products and in case of abnormal rise takes measure to reduce them through increase in tariffs, port restrictions, etc. Besides, it is also focusing on improving their production and productivity to reduce imports in long run. The Government has proposed replantation and rejuvenation of plantation crops like pepper, tea, coffee during XI Five Year plan under Special Purpose Tea Fund. In WTO negotiations, it is negotiating for Special Products and Special Safeguard Mechanism to be able to restrict agriculture imports.